

WI-367  
Levin A. Wilson House  
Mardela Springs  
Private

c. 1891-92

A recently applied paint scheme of contrasting colors has enhanced and enlivened this late nineteenth-century dwelling that stands on the north side of Main Street in the center of Mardela Springs. Designed with an asymmetrical ell-shaped plan, the main block has projecting three-sided pavilions on the south and east elevations. Each pavilion is topped by a large gabled dormer sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by an attic window featuring colored glass panes. Adding further textural interest to the roof is an open soffit eave, decorated and exposed rafter ends and decorated bargeboards. The main entrance is sheltered by a turned post porch. The front door features colored glass panes as well.

The well-preserved nature of this house is largely due to the fact that it was owned almost continuously by the same family since its construction around 1891 when Levin A. Wilson purchased a lot from William T. Marsters for \$200. The property entered into the inter-related Wright family during the early twentieth century after the death of Samantha E. Wilson.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Levin A. Wilson House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-367

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-367

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Levin A. Wilson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 407 Main Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military ___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ralph P. Hooper

street & number 407 Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 200, P. 220  
liber 1447

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 673

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. <sup>WT</sup> 367

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Levin A. Wilson house, also known as the Wilson-Wright house, stands at 407 Main Street in the center of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame dwelling faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1891-92, the two-and-a-half story, ell-shaped main block is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The south (main) elevation is an uneven three-bay facade with a projecting pavilion juxtaposed next to a two-bay, recessed entrance wall. The projecting three-sided bay pavilion is pierced by single pane replacement windows on the first and second floors. The third floor features a prominent gabled dormer sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a multi-pane window that incorporates a colored glass upper sash. The square edges of the pavilion roof are embellished with fan-shaped brackets and pendant drops on the outside corners. The eaves are extended and the decorated rafter ends are exposed. Trimming the outside edge of the roof is a decorated bargeboard. The recessed entrance elevation is sheltered on first floor by a single story turned post porch embellished with sawn brackets. The partially glazed front door features colored glass in a series of square perimeter panes. The adjacent bay is filled with a replacement single pane sash window. The second floor is lighted by single-pane sash windows. Rising through the center of the house are interior brick chimney stacks finished with corbeled caps. A twisted metal lightening rod system is fixed to the roof.

The west side of the house is two bays deep and a cross gable marks the roofline above the rear bay. The face of the gable is covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by an attic window featuring colored glass panes. The windows of the main block have been replaced with single-pane sash.

The east end of the ell-shaped main block is defined by a second three-sided bay pavilion pierced by a combination of wide and narrow single pane sash windows. Louvered shutters have been restored to some of the window openings. The three-sided pavilion has a large gabled dormer atop the pavilion roof, and it features the same fan-shaped brackets, pendant drops, and exposed eaves as the front pavilion.

Extending from the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that has a shed roofed, turned post porch on the east side. Less elaborate than the front section, the wing has exposed rafter ends and less intricate brackets on the corners of the roof. The rear gable end is covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by an attic sash featuring colored glass perimeter panes.

The interior survives with much of its late nineteenth century-woodwork. A center hall is dominated by a turned baluster staircase featuring a closed and molded stringer and a turned newel post with a ball finial. The handrail is also molded. Bracketed mantels distinguish several first floor rooms.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-367

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

A recently applied paint scheme of contrasting colors has enhanced and enlivened this late nineteenth-century dwelling that stands on the north side of Main Street in the center of Mardela Springs. Designed with an asymmetrical ell-shaped plan, the main block has projecting three-sided pavilions on the south and east elevations. Each pavilion is topped by a large gabled dormer sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by an attic window featuring colored glass panes. Adding further textural interest to the roof is an open soffit eave, decorated and exposed rafter ends and decorated bargeboards. The main entrance is sheltered by a turned post porch. The front door features colored glass panes as well.

The well-preserved nature of this house is largely due to the fact that it was owned almost continuously by the same family since its construction around 1891 when Levin A. Wilson purchased a lot from William T. Marsters for \$200.<sup>1</sup> The property entered into the inter-related Wright family during the early twentieth century after the death of Samantha E. Wilson.

The house merits listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings of high architectural and historical merit.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 8/5, 25 September 1891.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-367

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 6/28/98

street &amp; number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1904

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

WI-367

Levin A. Wilson House

407 Main Street

Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title

Map 200, Parcel 220

1447/673

R. Scott Wilson

Carole F. Wilson

to

1995

Ralph P. Hooper

82.5 square perches

MSB 1423/263

Claudia Virginia Whitelock, Personal Representatives of the  
Estate of Virginia Elizabeth Wright, dec'd

to

12/20/1994

R. Scott Wilson

Carole F. Wilson

82.5 square perches

JWTS 317/485

Mary Wright Lednum, et al.

to

3/3/1950

Martha Wilson Wright

Franklin Wilson Wright

Virginia Wright

which said land upon the death of the said Samantha E. Wilson  
who died about 3/19/1935, intestate, descended unto William T.  
Wilson, husband, Betty A. Windsor, Martha W. Wright, and Mary  
W. Lednum, daughters, and the said Betty A. Windsor and  
Martha W. Wright having conveyed their interests in the above  
property unto Mary W. Lednum, 8/22/1949, JWTS 315/37

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Levin A. Wright House  
407 Main Street  
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

EAT 67/106

Levin A. Wilson  
Lorena Wilson

to

10/30/1909

William M. Cooper

EAT 39/222

William J. Taylor

to

2/15/1904

Lorena Wilson

EAT 39/183

Lorena and Levin Wilson

to

2/12/1904

William J. Taylor  
conveyed to Lorena Wilson by two deeds

1. from Jay Williams, trustee, 2/15/1901, JTT 29/92  
“on the property where the said Levin A. Wilson  
now resides”

2. from George W. S. Taylor, 2/15/1901, JTT 29/92

FMS 8/5

William T. Marsters

to

9/25/1891

Levin A. Wilson

\$200 77 square rods

